

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2005, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references for the reasons set forth below. It is noted that the claims pending in the application are set forth above, even though no amendment have been made, so as to provide the Examiner with another copy of claim 17. As previously filed, the spelling of the term "cerium" appears correct.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowance of claims 21-37, and the indication of patentable subject matter being recited by claims 39 and 40.

II. The Rejection Of The Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-20, 38 and 41-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over various prior art references. Each of the pending rejections relies in-part on USP Pub. No. 2003/0175998 to Nagano. Nagano published on September 18, 2003. The instant application was filed in September 16, 2003, thereby making Nagano § 102(e) prior art relative to the instant application (because the publication date of Nagano is after the filing date of the instant application). As such, because Nagano and the instant application are both assigned to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., Nagano cannot be utilized in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, as each pending rejection is based in-part on Nagano, and Nagano does not represent prior art to the instant application, it is respectfully submitted that the pending rejections must be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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